



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Major Gen. Reynolds

file

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January 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMEN, INTERDEPARTMENTAL REGIONAL GROUPS
AF - Mr. Palmer EUR - Mr. Leddy
ARA - Mr. Vaky NEA - Mr. Hart
EA - Mr. Bundy

SUBJECT: PMG Guidance to IRGs on Base Study Review

At its meeting on 19 December 1968, the SIG requested the IRG's to review the State Defense Base Study and submit their conclusions and recommendations to the PMG, which was designated the review coordinator. The PMG has agreed on the following guidance supplementing that in the SIG directive of January 2:

1. The Base Study will not be rewritten or reissued, so a detailed critique of the document is not required, except as the IRG's disagree with statements or assumptions that bear directly on the future of the US base structure and on specific recommendations that the IRGs may submit.

2. The IRG review should identify base actions that are required, desirable or likely within the next two years. Security treaty and base agreement renewals, elections, foreign aid phaseouts, and similar foreseeable events affecting base tenure should be carefully examined and appropriate recommendations put forward for dealing with them.

3. The IRGs should also examine the longer range base prospects in their review, flagging those problems about which something useful might be started now.

4. The IRGs should consider explicitly the desirability of a detailed cost analysis of alternative strategies and base systems for their area. They should also indicate which of these should have priority. The analytical working group of the Study Group can do the analysis once it has been given guidance by the PMG on the strategy of interest.

Department of State review(s)
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5. Recommendations are also solicited on how base questions might better be dealt with within the US Government; both in terms of current base problems and of future planning. A variety of proposals have been put forward ranging from closer Embassy-Theater Commander relationship on base matters (using the recent Ambassador Johnson-Adm. McCain WESTPAC base action as a model) to extending the techniques of regular high level inter-governmental strategic talks as a means of developing a better host country understanding of base requirements. The IRG's should examine these and any other proposals that show promise of improving the management and viability of the US base structure over the long term.

6. In the expectation that some overseas distribution of the base study will be approved soon by the new Administration, the IRG's should consider what contribution the field can make to the review effort and the best means of eliciting it.

7. In most cases, it is clear which IRG is responsible for which section of the report. Both NEA/IRG and AF/IRG should comment on the MEAFSA section. NEA should comment on the Indian Ocean section but should include observers from EA and AF. The PMG will cover the general section but would welcome comment from the IRGs regarding the regional implication of these activities.

The PMG established a working group to assist the PMG in its own examination of the Study, in preparation of a draft report to the SIG, and in providing any further assistance to the IRG staffs and to the Intelligence subgroup set up pursuant to the SIG directive.

Philip J. Farley
Philip J. Farley
Chairman

cc: OSD/ISA -Mr. Gelb
OJCS - Rear Adm. Vannoy
CIA -
White House - Mr. Bromley Smith
State - INR - Mr. Weiss
G/PM - Mr. Ausland
Mr. Foley
U - Mr. Ruser

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